existing Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (COS) which among other things includes the issue of coverage of non-loanee farmers is presently under the consideration of the Government. A Concept Paper about various suggestions for revision of the scheme has been circulated to all the Hon'ble Members of the Parliament. A formal proposal for the revision will be prepared after receiving the views from die Honble Members.

Higher Cast of Imported Urea

3968. SHRl O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of the imported urea is higher by Rs. 4,000/- *per* ton than the one produced indigenously;

(b) whether the production of urea in the counrty can be increased by 13 lakh tonnes if the sick fertilizer plants are made operational by spending some one thousand crores of rupees;

(c) if so, whether Government are considering any proposal to remove the sickness of the fertilizer plants to achieve self-sufficiency and to lessen dependence on foreign countries; and

(d) whether due to shortage of urea and production of foodgrains has declined?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS. (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA): (a) During 199S-96, the estimated average farm-gate cost of imported urea was higher by Rs. 3624 per tonne than the weighted average farm-gate cost of indigenous urea.

(b) and (c) Of the eight fertilizer producing Public Sector Undertaking* (PSUs) and two Cooperative Societies under the administrative control of this Ministry, two PSUs, *viz.* Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC) 41 d Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCI) were declared sick by.the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in November, 1992.

The revival packages for HFC and FCI approved in principle by the Government in April, 1995 envisaged the revamp of Barauni, Durgapur and Namrup units of HFC; and Sindri, Ramagundem and Talcher units of FCI at a fresh investment of Rs. 2201.13 crore (Rs. 464.93 crore for HFC and Rs. 1736.20 crore for FCI), at 1994 price levels, apart from other financial reliefs to these undertakings. The funding arrangement for these packages could, however, not be tied up.

In order to minimise the requirement of budgetary support for the rehabilitation of HFC & FCI, an Expert Group has been constituted to reformulate the revival packages from the standpoint of funding by the financial Institutions. The final revival packages would also require the approval of the BIFR, which is a quasi-judicial authority. On implementation of the revival packages, these companies would be able to sustain a production capacity of 23 lakh MT of urea per annum.

(d) The availability of urea has been comfortable and _ there has been no shortage of the fertilizer.

Change in Land Use

3969. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how much area of land is under cultivation of foodgrains and cash crops, separately;

(b) how this compares with the area during 1960. 1970 and 1980;

(c) whether there has been change in the land use from foodgrains to cash crops;

(d) if so, the magnitude of such change during the last fifteen years as far as wheat and coarse grains are concerned;

(e) whether Government have any strategy to stop this trend; and